

SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

American Colonization Society,

WITH THE

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING AND OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANUARY 16, 1894.

WASHINGTON CITY:
COLONIZATION BUILDING, 450 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.
1894.

JUDD & DETWEILER, PRINTERS.

THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The American Colonization Society at its last annual meeting unanimously adopted the following statement of a policy to guide its future action :

1. Colonists hereafter to be selected with special reference to the needs of Liberia, and to be located with more care and to better advantage to themselves.

2. Funds held in trust for education to be applied in ways to aid and stimulate the Liberian Government to more energetic action in establishing and fostering an efficient system of public schools, rather than in merely supporting independent schools.

3. The Society to make a special effort to collect and diffuse more full and reliable information about Liberia, and, as a bureau of information, to make itself practically useful both to Liberia and the Negroes in the United States desiring to emigrate there.

4. The Society to promote in every possible way the establishment of more direct, frequent, and quicker communication between the United States and Liberia.

5. The chief end of the work of the Society to be in the line of enabling and stimulating Liberia to depend less and less upon others and more and more upon herself.

APPLICATIONS.

The concurrent testimony of the best-informed men in Liberia is to the effect that only young, hardy, intelligent, and enterprising emigrants are now wanted.

There are thousands of natives and others already there to

perform any ordinary unskilled labor that is required, and who stand ready to work for a compensation of a few cents a day. There is no demand for services in the menial employments, so largely sought for and obtained by Negroes in the cities and larger towns of this country. The emigrant that Liberia wants must be able to take the 25 acres of wild land which the government will give him; clear it, build himself a cabin or cottage, comfortable for that climate; plant his vegetables, cereals, and coffee trees, and provide himself with fowls and other domestic animals, and he must have money enough to enable him to do all this and to support himself and family meanwhile. There is no better evidence that an applicant possesses the qualifications needful for success in that primitive country than the fact that he has already done well in the country which he leaves; that he has there acquired at least a rudimentary education, supported himself and family, and by his industry and thrift saved money enough to enable him to settle in a new home.

The number of Negroes desiring to emigrate from this country to Liberia and applying to this Society for assistance is not diminishing. The applications on file number many thousands, and new ones are being received constantly. A large majority of these applicants are both illiterate and impecunious, and in most cases it may well be doubted whether emigration would improve the condition of either themselves or Liberia.

There are, however, a large number of more intelligent and better educated, more enterprising and thrifty young Negroes in this country, who have formed a deliberate opinion that they can have a better chance to develop the full measure of their manhood, to improve the fortunes of themselves and their descendants, and to promote the highest interests of their race by making a home in a land where the Negro rules, and that no other country on the globe holds out so good a prospect for the realization of these aspirations as does Liberia.

The marvelous progress now being made in opening up the whole continent of Africa to development, commerce, and Christian civilization, and a better knowledge of Liberia are attracting the attention of the more intelligent and enterprising young men of the race, and thus increasing the number from which the little Republic must draw her recruits in the future, if she is to realize the best hopes of herself and friends.

EMIGRATION.

During the past year this Society has assisted five emigrants : Rev. A. L. Ridgel, aged 31, Methodist preacher, and his wife, Mrs. Fannie L. Ridgel, aged 30, from Arkansas, February 23, 1893 ; Mr. Julius C. Stevens, aged 39, teacher, from North Carolina, April 5, 1893 ; Miss Georgia L. Patton, aged 28, M. D., from Tennessee, April 5, 1893, and Mr. George Bowden, aged 30, farmer, from Texas, January 10, 1894. In all these cases the Society furnished only the passage by steamer from New York by way of Liverpool, the emigrants paying their own expenses to New York and providing for themselves after their arrival in Liberia.

It is estimated that more than 50 emigrants, who have paid their own way, have gone there during the year ; and the Executive Committee is now in correspondence with a number of persons who are making arrangements to emigrate during the coming year, paying the whole or greater part of their expenses.

EDUCATIONAL WORK.

This Society now holds trust funds amounting to about \$17,000, the annual income from which is to be applied to educational purposes in Liberia. Carrying out the policy agreed upon at the last Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee has endeavored to make use of the income from these funds, so far as the condition of the respective trusts permitted, in assisting and stimulating the public schools already established by the Liberian Government.

On the recommendation of Mr. Ezekiel E. Smith, late United States minister to Liberia and subsequently agent of this Society, to locate a company of emigrants there, a small supply of elementary text-books, reported to be much needed in these schools, were sent to President Cheeseman for distribution. It is intended to continue assistance in supplying such wants, so far as the limited means of the Society will allow, wherever it is evident that such aid will stimulate rather than paralyze Liberian efforts.

In April last Mr. Julius C. Stevens, of Goldsboro', North Carolina, was sent out as an agent to look after the interests of emigrants aided by this Society, a work which need occupy but a

small portion of his time, and to visit and assist all the public schools. Mr. Stevens was desirous of making his permanent home in Liberia. He had been educated as a teacher and successfully practiced his profession for a number of years, in which he had been promoted from time to time until he had reached the position of principal of the graded colored public schools in the city of Goldsboro'.

During the past summer the war with the Grebos monopolized the attention of the Liberian Government to such an extent as to interfere seriously with other matters, and the work which Mr. Stevens was instructed to do in the schools was greatly impeded thereby. He however at once commenced teaching in the preparatory school of the college and introducing such more advanced pedagogical methods as he had acquired by his training and experience in this country. As soon as he found an opportunity to do so he commenced his work in the public elementary schools of the city of Monrovia, and at a consultation of the school authorities suggested a grading and rearrangement of the pupils that in his judgment would increase the efficiency of these schools. He is now engaged in visiting the schools in other parts of the country and proposes to inspect and report upon the condition of all of them at an early date. He has forwarded to the Executive Committee monthly reports of his work, containing much useful information.

BULLETINS.

Two numbers of the Bulletin, in an edition of 1,500 copies each, have been published and distributed during the year. No 2, of 48 pages, issued in February, contained the annual report of the Society and the addresses delivered at the last annual meeting. No. 3, of 80 pages, issued in November, contained, as its leading article, an exhaustive paper on "Commercial Africa," prepared by a gentleman exceptionally competent to discuss the subject and regarded as an authority.

Believing that the future of Liberia is largely dependent upon the commercial interests to exist between the United States and that little Republic and the whole continent, of which it is but a very small part at present, it was thought advisable to make a full and reliable presentation of the almost fabulous resources

of Africa and the immense commerce with that continent which has been built up within the last decade by a few European powers.

In this country very little attention has been given to the great possibilities for commercial intercourse with Africa. It is believed the time is near at hand when these will be better known and appreciated by commercial capitalists.

Direct steam communication between this country and Liberia is what is now wanted to secure for her the emigration which she needs to help develop her resources and strengthen her, and it is evident that there is already a commercial basis for such an enterprise.

BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

Communications are received daily at the office of the Society from Negroes in this country asking information about Liberia, its climate, soil, productions, schools, churches, and people, what the Government of Liberia will do for emigrants, and what assistance this Society will give them; also communications from citizens of Liberia and from persons specially interested in her welfare and the experiment of a Negro nationality in Africa.

During the past year about a thousand such letters have been received, and, in reply to these, letters have been written and more than 4,000 Bulletins of the Society and other documents have been sent out.

The office finds a wide field of usefulness not only in advising and assisting applicants who would be desirable accessions to Liberia, but also in discountenancing the many impracticable and vicious schemes of emigration, which are frequently organized by designing or ignorant leaders only to the great detriment of their dupes.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

In May last President Cheeseman of Liberia was reelected almost unanimously for a second term of two years, commencing in January, 1894.

The Grebos, a native tribe occupying a small tract of territory west of the Cavally river, in the neighborhood of Cape Palmas, had for a long time contested the authority of the Liberian government, and during the past summer an effort was made to

enforce their obedience to the laws of the country. With a gunboat recently purchased by the Liberian government and a small military force, President Cheeseman himself proceeded to the seat of insubordination and engaged in a conflict resulting in the loss of some lives. The necessity of a resort to military force by Liberia is greatly to be deprecated, and the little Republic, with its limited resources, can ill afford the expenses attendant upon wars. If, however, the long-standing difficulties with the Grebos have thereby been satisfactorily and finally settled, as recent advices seem to indicate, the results may justify the means employed.

In response to the invitation of the United States the Liberian government had prepared and sent to the World's Columbian Exposition, at Chicago, a very creditable exhibit of her products, resources, manufactures, and ethnological and other objects of interest, which were well calculated to attract attention, give valuable information, and awaken new interest. An account of this exhibit, taken from the official report of the Hon. Alfred B. King, one of the Liberian commissioners in charge, was published in Bulletin No. 3, issued in November last.

FRENCH ENCROACHMENTS.

It is deeply to be regretted that some of the European powers, who are so greedily and rapidly appropriating to their own uses the continent of Africa, manifest a disposition not only to circumscribe Liberia for all time to come by the boundaries which have not been questioned for more than half a century, but also to lay claim to extensive and most valuable territories clearly within those boundaries. A very noticeable instance of this disposition is furnished in the efforts now being made by France to get possession of the valuable territory lying between the Cavally and San Pedro rivers, having a sea-coast of some 70 miles on the southeastern borders of what has been known heretofore as Liberia.

England and France are now engaged with an amicable but sharp rivalry in extending their respective "spheres of influence" in Africa, and France, at last accounts slightly in the lead, claims 26 per cent. of the whole continent. Pushing interiorward toward the Soudan from Algeria and Senegal, she claims

the upper waters of the Niger and its tributaries and is aggressively moving down the course of this stream; but England has possession of the mouths, deltas, and for a considerable distance up this great river, and a large territory there is occupied by enterprising English companies.

The Cavally river and some of the tributaries of the Upper Niger have neighboring sources in the high lands, and the Cavally, which is navigable for 120 miles, furnishes an admirable highway from the Atlantic toward the region about the Upper Niger. Hence France desires to control the Cavally river, as it will give her a greatly desired outlet to the Atlantic ocean for her Niger possessions. She has therefore brought forward claims to several isolated points distributed all along the coast of Liberia. These claims, for the most part, had their origin in a distant past, antedating the founding of Liberia; and, although France formally recognized the Republic of Liberia when it became an independent State, and subsequently concluded a treaty with that Government "to establish friendly relations and a good understanding between the two countries," yet on neither of these opportunate occasions did she prefer these claims. The Liberian government unfortunately selected its representative at Belgium, Baron de Stein, to negotiate with duly appointed French officials a settlement of the questions at issue, and the result of their conference was a treaty, signed at Paris on the 8th of December, 1892, by the terms of which Liberia was to cede to France all that part of her territory between the Cavally and San Pedro rivers, and to receive in consideration thereof certain remote hinter-lands, of no considerable importance to Liberia at present, and an indemnity of 25,000 francs to reimburse Liberia for "certain expenses of establishment" incurred on the part of the coast which is on the east side of the Cavally. This convention, however, can become binding only upon its ratification by the Senate and Executive of Liberia, which it has not yet received.

Under these circumstances, the Executive Committee of this Society addressed an earnest memorial to the United States Secretary of State asking the interposition of this Government not only to prevent the unjust spoliation of Liberia but also to protect the rights of citizens of the United States and of this Society who had originally purchased the territory in question,

and in ceding it to Liberia had reserved certain portions of it for their own use in colonization. The Government of the United States has firmly remonstrated against the cession of this territory to France, and there is reasonable expectation that the proposed treaty will not be ratified.

RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO LIBERIA.

The Government of the United States sent out its agents to assist in making the original purchase of the territory of Liberia as an asylum for recaptured slaves, "with an express injunction to exercise no power founded on the principle of colonization or other power than that of performing the benevolent offices above recited by the permission and sanction of the existing government under which they may establish themselves." From that time to the present our Government has assumed to have a friendly interest in Liberia, and the Presidents of the United States in their messages to Congress have spoken of that country as an "offshoot of our system toward which this country has for many years held the intimate relation of friendly counselor;" of "the moral right and duty of the United States to assist in all possible ways in the maintenance of its integrity;" and of "a sympathetic interest in the fortunes of the little commonwealth, the establishment and development of which were largely aided by the benevolence of our countrymen."

Nevertheless, it is a fact to be regretted that for the last half century the Government of the United States has practically done less to protect and assist Liberia than has the English government, although the latter has not been constrained by any special bonds of relationship or moral obligations. Its interest has never extended much beyond the friendly phrases of its Chief Executive. Even the former annual visit of a naval vessel to the coast of Liberia, as a mark of friendship and respect, which had a most salutary, moral influence upon rebellious and predatory tribes of natives and aggressive foreign powers, was discontinued.

It should be said, however, that President Cleveland has shown his sincere interest in the little Republic and his appreciation of the moral obligations of this Government, not only by a timely and forcible statement of the same in a message to Congress, but

also by an emphatic official protest against foreign encroachments on Liberian territory. From his just appreciation of the moral obligations of governments, his friendly sympathy with a weaker nation, and his decided and firm course of action in pursuance of his convictions we have reason to hope for good results. In his recent annual message to Congress he said :

"A notable part of the southeasterly coast of Liberia between the Cavally and San Pedro rivers, which for nearly half a century has been generally recognized as belonging to that Republic by cession and purchase, has been claimed to be under the protectorate of France in virtue of agreements entered into by the native tribes over whom Liberia's control has not been well maintained.

"More recently negotiations between the Liberian representative and the French government resulted in the signature, at Paris, of a treaty whereby, as an adjustment, certain Liberian territory is ceded to France. This convention, at last advices, had not been ratified by the Liberian legislature and executive.

"Feeling a sympathetic interest in the fortunes of the little commonwealth, the establishment and development of which were largely aided by the benevolence of our countrymen, and which constitutes the only independently sovereign state on the west coast of Africa, this Government has suggested to the French government its earnest concern lest territorial impairment in Liberia should take place without her unconstrained consent."

Liberia does not want a governmental protectorate, but she yet needs protection and assistance. A sufficient motive for a more active interest in her welfare on the part of our Government and people is to be found in the great commercial opportunities which Africa is now unfolding and to which Liberia may become an open and friendly gateway ; beyond this, if governments are to recognize moral principles and obligations, it is clearly the duty of the United States Government to protect and foster its "offshoot," the Republic of Liberia ; and above all, the marvelous events of the closing years of the nineteenth century have already forecast the future of Africa, and before the end of the next half century that continent is to surrender her matchless, long-hoarded wealth to the demands of a higher civilization ; her great rivers are to be covered with the fleets of com-

merce ; the railroad and the telegraph are to penetrate her most hidden recesses and weave their magic web over all the land ; her diamond fields, her gold mines, her vast stores of ivory, her gigantic forests of the most useful and ornamental woods, her myriad plants, wonderful alike for their beauty and their utility ; her rich soil, so happily adapted to the cultivation of coffee, sugar, rice, all tropical and semi-tropical fruits, and the cereals ; her vast healthful plateaus, all are to be made to serve the purposes for which they were created—the highest uses of man ; and what share shall the Negro have in the new age of the great continent which has been occupied by himself and his ancestors from a date so remote that history is unable to record it ? The momentous answer to this question immediately confronts him, and us as well ; for we, both as a Christian people and a Republican Government, stand before the world the professed representatives and champions of the common brotherhood and equal rights of all men.

The report of the Treasurer is herewith submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr. *Receipts and Disbursements of the American Colonization Society, January 1, 1893, to January 12, 1894.* Cr.

Received Donations.....	\$1,400 00	Paid Passage and settlement of emigrants and traveling expenses.....	\$810,00
Annuities.....	5,257 98	Education in Liberia.....	495 40
Interest on loans.....	2,175 06	Passage money returned.....	241 25
Rents of Colonization Building.....	1,527 00	Water rent, insurance, and repairs (Colonization Building).....	113 55
Loans paid.....	10,812 50	Printing Annual Report and Bulletins.....	353 21
		Salaries: Secretary (13 mos.), \$1,275; Clerk (13 mos.), \$650; Janitor (13 mos.), \$195; General Agent (11 mos.), \$1,375; Agent in Liberia (12 mos.), \$400.....	3,895 00
		Traveling expenses of General Agent.....	150 00
		Office expenses: Books, stationery, maps, furniture, postage, etc.....	592 53
		Investments.....	25,537 50
		Miscellaneous.....	51 00
Receipts.....	\$21,172 54	Disbursements.....	\$32,239 44
Balance December 31, 1892.....	11,778 41	Balance January 12, 1894.....	711 51
Total.....	\$32,950 95	Total.....	\$32,950 95

The Committee on Accounts have examined the Treasurer's account from December 31, 1892, to January 12, 1894, and the vouchers for the disbursements, and find the same correct.

HORACE PETTIT.
THOS. G. ADDISON.
J. ORMOND WILSON.
A. J. HUNTINGTON.

MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

COLONIZATION ROOMS, January 16, 1894.

The annual meeting of the American Colonization Society was held to-day at 1 o'clock p. m., in the rooms of the Society, 450 Pennsylvania avenue.

President Potter presided.

The minutes of the annual meeting, January 17, 1893, were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. Burton, the Secretary was instructed to cast the ballot of the Society for the retiring officers to serve as the officers for the ensuing year, and the Secretary accordingly cast the ballot as follows :

President :

1892 RIGHT REV. HENRY C. POTTER, D. D.

Vice-Presidents :

1851 Rev. Robert Ryland, D. D., Ky.	1882 Mr. Henry G. Marquand, N. Y.
1851 Hon. Frederick P. Stanton, Va.	1884 Rev. George D. Boardman, D. D., Pa.
1866 Hon. James R. Doxlittle, Wis.	1884 Rev. Bishop E. G. Andrews, D. D., N. Y.
1867 Mr. Samuel A. Crozer, Pa.	1884 Prof. E. W. Blyden, LL.D., Liberia.
1870 Mr. Robert Arthington, Eng.	1886 Hon. Alexander B. Hagner, D. C.
1874 Rev. Bishop R. S. Foster, D. D., Mass.	1887 Hon. Robert S. Green, N. J.
1875 Rt. Rev. M. A. DeW. Howe, D. D., Pa.	1888 Hon. William Strong, D. C.
1875 Mr. Samuel K. Wilson, N. J.	1888 Rev. J. Aspinwall Hodge, D. D., Conn.
1876 Rev. Samuel E. Appleton, D. D., Pa.	1888 Mr. Arthur M. Burton, Pa.
1876 Rev. H. M. Turner, D. D., LL.D., Ga.	1891 Rev. Leighton Parks, Mass.
1877 Rev. E. G. Robinson, D. D., R. I.	1892 Rev. Edward W. Appleton, D. D., Pa.
1877 Rev. William E. Schenck, D. D., Pa.	1892 Rev. Wm. A. Bartlett, D. D., D. C.
1878 Hon. Richard W. Thompson, Ind.	1892 Mr. Osmon Latrobe, Md.
1878 Adm. Rob't W. Shufeldt, U. S. N., D. C.	1893 Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, D. C.
1880 Rev. Samuel D. Alexander, D. D., N. Y.	1893 Right Rev. T. U. Dudley, D. D., Ky.
1881 Rev. Bishop H. W. Warren, D. D., Col.	

On motion of Mr. Arthur M. Burton, the President and Secretary were appointed a committee to call on the President of the United States and Secretary of State and urge the importance of preventing French encroachments upon the territory of Liberia.

The Rev. George W. Samson, D. D., presented the following paper, which was received and ordered to be referred to the Executive Committee when appointed :

LIBERIAN COLONIZATION.

A RESPONSIBLE AUTHOR SEEN IN EACH ERA OF ITS PROGRESS.

African colonization by American Negroes began with Great Britain many years earlier than with the United States Government. For more than a century England has been bound to her assumed responsibility without intermission, while the United States Government has been specially bound to an assumed responsibility only at occasional eras. During the war for American Independence, from Boston, Massachusetts, to Charleston, South Carolina, especially in Virginia, Negro servants brought within the British lines were sent to Canada as an asylum. Three causes conspired to their early removal to Sierra Leone: *First*. The climate of Canada was inhospitable and the products of slave labor unremunerative in a cold region, a cause early operating in New England. *Second*. The loss of their colonial commerce led the British East India Company to increased effort to secure territory and greatly increased commercial openings in western Africa and southern Asia, and the colonizing of the American Negroes landed in Canada at the cape projecting farthest westward on the African coast furnished a convenient supply-station for British vessels bound to and from India. *Third*. In 1807 the efforts of Wilberforce, begun shortly after the planting of the colony of American Negroes at Sierra Leone and persistently urged for twenty years, secured the passage and royal approval of the British bill abolishing the slave trade. At once Sierra Leone was looked upon as the natural asylum for slaves rescued from slavers, as they left African ports, by British cruisers. It was just at this era that African colonization compelled American attention.

A balance of interests led to the provision of the United States Constitution framed in 1787, inserted in article I, section X, paragraph 1, thus worded: "The immigration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight."

This provision implied, of course, that the prohibiting as well as admitting both immigration and importation was a legitimate right of the Union, since otherwise the interest and privilege of one state might bring in or shut out a class of persons desirable

or objectionable in neighboring states. The application of this provision was universally known to relate to Negro slaves, and to Jefferson, then President, the exception or temporary admission implied subsequent prohibition.

Acting on this view of duty, Jefferson sought to join Great Britain in her statute of the previous year, and, since the Sierra Leone colony was made up of American Negroes, he desired a mutual coöperation in making this a common asylum for captured slaves. The close of his term of office in 1809 and the war for "National Equality," not settled in the treaty securing "National Independence," deferred the recognized American duty during the administration of President Madison. It should be observed that what had been the third ground of duty in African colonization with Great Britain became the first with the United States Government. The close of hostilities was followed by alienations as well as interests that turned attention to the desirableness of an independent colony, and that for the added reasons well brought to view in the late Bulletin of the American Colonization Society. Philanthropy to the emancipated in some states, patriotism in others, ruled by the yet higher duty of religious usefulness, led to generous benefactions from individuals and auxiliary societies; but only national authority could plant and guarantee safety to colonists, and the first duty, and that a national obligation, provided a national vessel to take out the first emigrants and to negotiate treaties with the natives and with European governments for their protection. For about thirty years, from 1817 to 1847, the colonists, aided by white governors, sustained by the Society and its auxiliaries, were as truly the wards of the United States Government as are American citizens traveling in Europe. Meanwhile auxiliary societies from Massachusetts to Virginia provided funds for transportation and six months' provisions of emigrants sent from American States, while the Government was bound by treaty with Great Britain to provide cruisers on the African coast and through the Society to provide temporary support for rescued slaves landed in Liberia.

A new era arose when Liberia, after thirty years, had citizens trained to conduct the affairs of their own Government, while the colonists were wisely left to negotiate with native tribes. The United States Government was ever alive to the obligation to protect the territory for whose occupation it had negotiated.

The administration of President Pierce, beginning March 4, 1854, brought in an era of increased and almost exclusive responsibility toward the colony in Liberia. For years the dissatisfaction and necessary inefficiency of American cruisers watching for slavers on the African coast made a change in the service most desirable. While the officers and men of the British cruisers were on the line of passing friends the Americans were exiles. Yet more, the expense of crossing the ocean made the cost of service unequal, and the divided responsibility resulted more in neglect than in rivalry, both in watching and in pursuit; hence the United States Executive, led by Governor William L. Marcy, then Secretary of State, proposed and secured this change; that the American cruisers should watch for and arrest slavers that eluded the watch on the other side of the Atlantic and capture them as they were coming in to Central and Southern American ports. The change was surprisingly effective. Slaver after slaver was captured and brought in; and now the Government, since their national vessels could be spared, provided \$100 for the passage out to Liberia and six months' provisions after landing. The Government, having returned to its original and unchanging obligations, the auxiliaries naturally devoted increased attention to providing educational and industrial facilities for the colonists; philanthropic, religious, and political interest increased in corresponding ratio.

The war for the Union, after eight years of successful arrest of slavery, introduced an era yet more marked. Few emigrants thought of Liberia, for all watched the result of the war. The thousands of refugees flocking into Washington required Government provision. Led by trusted advisers, President Lincoln asked an appropriation of \$100,000, which was granted, to send a steamer crowded with emigrants to the Danish West Indies. On landing, all were dissatisfied and were brought back. Sending, then, for the secretary of the American Colonization Society and the member of the Executive Committee for years associated with him in visits to the heads of departments, an agent, one trusted by their own number, was sent out to prepare the way in Liberia. In his conversation, two years before assuming authority to free as a military expedient the slaves within the states, President Lincoln said that the necessity of the case left him no alternative but to assume the authority of sending emi-

grants to Liberia. The delay led to the employment of those people in various services. The principle of Government responsibility ruled, as it had from the origin of Liberia.

The close of the war for the Union brought a yet different era. Thousands wished to go to Liberia. Among others, Senator Fessenden, of Maine, recognized and advocated the principle that the fact that under Government authority the ancestors of the colored people in the United States had from mercenary reasons been forced across the ocean and to render for generations unrepaid service, while now their separation from their American homes was the result of national emancipation, the Government was bound in some way to provide for their necessity, and if they chose it, to furnish them with a passage to Liberia. This view prevailed, the passage by sea was provided, and land transportation to the port of embarkation was furnished.

Certainly a new era has now dawned, and neither the leaders in benevolent organizations nor the present United States authorities can be insensible to it. All agree that to a certain extent the Liberian citizens must be called to increased energy as they have increased ability for self-support; but the demand for aid to Liberian citizens is superior to the claim on American citizens of any other people, for their ancestors served our ancestors as have no other people, and we inherit the fruit of their toil. Yet more, treaties, subsidies, and other national provisions may be but matters of mutual interest with other nations; mere commercial reciprocation can never measure and gauge and limit the obligation of the United States to Liberia. Certainly three principles must rule in the study of obligation and the method of meeting it: First, what the Liberian people through their government ask, the American people and their rulers cannot turn aside without a hearing; second, when any colored citizen asks aid in returning to the land from which his ancestors were forced by our ancestors, no American citizen or representative can pass him by as without a claim belonging to no other like applicant; third, an undivided moral coöperation with the American Society by all the state organizations is a pressing general demand.

On motion, adjourned.

J. ORMOND WILSON,
Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 16, 1894.*

The Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society met to-day at 12 o'clock m., in the rooms of the Society, No. 450 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, Washington, D. C.

President Potter presided, and Mr. J. Ormond Wilson was appointed Secretary.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D.

Rev. Dr. Sunderland, Mr. Reginald Fendall, and Judge Charles C. Nott were appointed a Committee on Credentials, and the committee reported the following-named Delegates appointed for the year 1894:

Pennsylvania Colonization Society.—Rev. William E. Schenck, D. D., Rev. Alfred L. Elwyn, Mr. Arthur N. Burton, and Mr. Horace Pettit.

Maryland Colonization Society.—Mr. G. W. S. Hall, Rev. Julius E. Grammar, D. D., Hon. Robert A. Dobbin, and Mr. Edward G. Jones.

The following Directors were stated to be in attendance:

Executive Committee.—Judge Charles C. Nott, Mr. Reginald Fendall, Rev. Thomas G. Addison, D. D., Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D., Dr. William W. Godding, Rev. A. J. Huntington, D. D., and Mr. J. Ormond Wilson.

Life Directors.—The Right Rev. H. C. Potter, D. D., of New York, and the Rev. George W. Samson, D. D., of New York.

Whereupon, on motion—

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Credentials be accepted and approved, and the gentlemen named be received as members of the Board.

On motion—

The Rev. G. W. Samson, D. D., and the Rev. R. G. S. McNeille, D. D., were received as a committee to represent the New York State Society and invited, as visitors, to take seats with the Board.

The Chair appointed the Standing Committees, as follows :

Committee on Education and Foreign Relations.—Judge Nott, Rev. Mr. Elwyn, and Dr. Godding.

Committee on Accounts and Finance.—Mr. Pettit, Rev. Dr. Addison, Mr. Wilson, and Rev. Dr. Huntington.

Committee on Auxiliary Societies and Agencies.—Rev. Dr. Samson, Rev. Dr. Schenck, and Mr. Burton.

Committee on Emigration.—Rev. Dr. Grammar, Rev. Dr. Sunderland, and Mr. Jones.

On motion—

Rev. Dr. Samson, Mr. Fendall, Rev. Dr. Schenck, Mr. Hall, Rev. Daniel D. Addison, of Massachusetts, and Mr. Daniel Price, of New Jersey, were appointed a committee to examine the Constitution of this Society and report such amendments as said committee may consider advisable.

On motion—

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to nominate the Executive Committee, Secretary, and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Rev. Dr. Samson, Rev. Dr. Addison, and Mr. Burton were appointed the committee.

The Secretary presented and read the Seventy-seventh Annual Report of the American Colonization Society.

The Treasurer presented and read his report of receipts and disbursements for the past year, with the certificate of audit; also a statement of the property of the Society.

Whereupon, on motion—

Resolved, That the Annual Report and the Treasurer's report just read, with accompanying papers, be accepted, and that so much of them as relates to foreign relations, finance, auxiliary societies, agencies, accounts, emigration, and education be referred to the several standing committees in charge of those subjects respectively.

At the suggestion of the President, the Secretary was requested to prepare and furnish to the Associated Press an abstract of the Annual Report.

On motion—

The Board took a recess to give the members an opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society.

The Board reconvened at 3.30 o'clock p. m.

The Rev. Dr. Samson, chairman of the Committee to Nominate an Executive Committee, Secretary, and Treasurer, made the following report, which was unanimously adopted :

The Executive Committee.—Hon. Charles C. Nott, Mr. Reginald Fendall, Rev. Thomas G. Addison, D. D., Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D., Dr. William W. Godding, Rev. A. J. Huntington, D. D., and Mr. J. Ormond Wilson.

Secretary.—Mr. J. Ormond Wilson.

Treasurer.—Mr. Reginald Fendall.

On motion of Mr. Fendall—

The services of Mr. Henry T. Buell, as General Agent of the Society, were continued.

Mr. Pettit, chairman of the Standing Committee on Accounts and Finance, presented and read the following report, and it was, on motion, approved :

“The Standing Committee on Accounts and Finance respectfully report that they have examined the Treasurer’s account for the year 1893 and the vouchers for the disbursements, and find the same correct, and that they have examined the evidences of property belonging to the Society for its own use and in trust, and find that they agree with the statement of the Treasurer.”

Dr. Samson, chairman of the Committee on Auxiliary Societies and Agencies, reported the following, which was adopted :

The Committee on Auxiliary Societies respectfully report :

That, in their view, the interests of Liberian colonization have now assumed a character which, for the welfare of colonists and the relations of the United States Government to the Liberian Republic, render the representation of auxiliaries specially important for coöperation in the special work of each Society.

On motion of Mr. Fendall—

The report was received and referred to the committee appointed to consider a revision of the Constitution.

On motion of Mr. Hall—

Resolved, That the annual report of the Society be referred to the Executive Committee for publication.

Dr. Samson presented the following communication, which was referred to the Executive Committee:

OFFICE OF F. J. FERRELL,
CONTRACTING ENGINEER, &c., 154 WEST 27TH STREET,
NEW YORK, Jan. 12, 1894.

Dr. G. W. SAMSON,

American Colonization Society, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Hearing that you are in Washington upon business pertaining to the American Colonization Society, I desire again to call your attention to the matter of having boys from the coast of Liberia or from any other part of Africa brought to this country and taught the various mechanical trades. Upon this subject you know I talked with you some time ago. The question of elevating, christianizing, and civilizing Africans has called forth much labor and expenditure of money by those who are inclined to work for the redemption of Africa. I do not feel like saying that their work is a failure, but I will go so far as to say that I believe that the introduction of trades into Africa, which are the foundation of commerce, will be the connecting link of the chain of progress in the civilizing and christianizing of Africans in Africa. The only question at issue will be the manner of accomplishing this work. I think we have talked upon the details of this work, and I believe that you understand the many perplexing things which I attempted to explain. My plans, in brief, are these: First, boys to be brought from Africa, taught trades by working in shops during the day, and schooled at night under a rigid discipline; second, when they become journeymen they are to be furnished with a kit of tools and provision made to give them a loan of money, which they are to receive after they return home, with which to begin business. This money they are, of course, to repay in the course of four or five years.

Under such conditions, after the first three or four years, there could be graduated in this country ten to twenty boys per year, and at the same time a like mechanical education will be going on in Africa through those who will be carrying on business there, having been previously trained in this country. The trades first to be taught should be carpentering, brick-making, wagon-building, blacksmithing, painting, machinery, millwright, and foundry work. You perceive by this plan that if you start with twenty boys, in three years there will be twenty skilled mechanics, with tools and American ideas of mechanical work. This is only a synopsis of the subject. Should you at any time desire more systematic details I will gladly furnish them.

Trusting that you will give this matter your consideration and call the attention of some of the best and truest friends of the American Colonization Society to this important subject, I remain

Yours very respectfully,

F. J. FERRELL.

The Board, on motion, adjourned.

J. ORMOND WILSON, *Secretary*.